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introduction, the outlines of plant distribution in the whole continent; then the history of botanical exploration in extratropical West Australia; the physical geography of this region; an ecological study of the vegetation of the southwest province, lying near the coast, and that of the Eremaea province, which fills the rest and extends far beyond the bounds of West Australia; and finally a discussion of the floristic regions, the elements of the flora, its relations to others, and its developmental history.

It is quite impossible to summarize this work, or to do more than direct attention to it as a thorough and careful report of the present state of knowledge regarding this bit of that great continent. For only a beginning has been made around the edges; and only a realization of the fact that in the interior there are great stretches that probably present a nearly uniform vegetation, prevents one feeling unduly the meagerness of the present knowledge, even with this great addition.

DIELS finds that in this geologically little disturbed southwestern region there has been the quiet development of a flora quite at one originally with that in the east, though the two are now widely separated by the Eremaea province, and the eastern flora has been disturbed by competition with other elements. In the specially favorable conditions of the southwest, however, development along lines of progressive endemism has brought many genera to remarkable expansion and high differentiation. DIELS rejects as an error the idea of many authors (notably WALLACE) that the West Australian flora represents the original one, which spread east; he considers it rather as an old panaustralian one, further specialized. The Eremaea flora prevails in a climate which could not have corresponded to the conditions of the old Australian flora; it is rather a selection from the primitive flora adapted to the gradual drying and enriched from the tropical north. Finally, there has come the disturbing influence of man. Even the aborigines set fire to the "bush," and the Europeans, in the seven decades of their occupation, have wrought still greater changes.

The illustrations are numerous. Part are half-tones, from photographs by PFITZER; part are detailed drawings, after the style of the *Pflanzenfamilien*, of the characteristic species. A topical index and one to plant names (not as convenient as a single one) makes the matter readily available.—C. R. B.

Plant geography

In spite of our tardiness in reviewing it, we cannot forbear calling attention to the brief discussion of certain central topics of plant geography by Count SOLMS-LAUBACH.[4] The book has grown out of lectures, given twice in the course of twelve years at the University of Strassburg, and was prepared for the press at the solicitation of friends.

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[4] SOLMS-LAUBACH, H. GRAF ZU, Die leitende Gesichtspunkt einer allgemeinen Pflanzengeographie in kurzer Darstellung. 8vo. pp. x+243. Leipzig: Arthur Felix. 1905. *M* 8.

This work was received at the close of 1905 and was sent at once to a competent reviewer, but was overlooked and recently returned at the editors' request.

The author enters a disclaimer as to any originality except in the selection of the material and its presentation. His purpose is quite other than that of GRISEBACH, DRUDE, and SCHIMPER, who have sought to present the facts of plant distribution in a comprehensive way. SOLMS-LAUBACH discusses several large topics, whose enumeration sufficiently indicates the scope of his work: species and their alteration in time; the habitat; the occupation of habitats by species; the disturbance of the equilibrium of distribution by external causes; island floras. In discussing these topics he cites illustrative examples, but omits pictures and lists of vegetation. A historical introduction and a brief recapitulation of the most general principles of geographic distribution form a suitable preface to the special topics.

Under the topic "the species" we find a discussion of the origin both of the concept and the corresponding plant groups, in which the concepts of LINNAEUS and JORDAN and the theories of LAMARCK, DARWIN, NÄGELI, and DEVRIES are set forth. The topic "habitat" includes a discussion of the relations of external factors to plant form—"adaptations" in the broadest sense. The means and methods of distribution, which make it possible for plants to occupy a habitat, are described briefly. Alterations in the habitat by invasion of plants, and especially secular alterations of climate, such as that involved in the last glacial period, with the consequent migrations, are discussed at some length. The insular floras, as conditioned by the hindrances to plant distribution, are characterized briefly.

As a book for reading in connection with the more systematic works, these lectures will be found serviceable as well as interesting.—C. R. B.

MINOR NOTICES

Contributions from the Gray Herbarium.—The current number of this series[5] contains four parts: I. "New species of Senecio and Schoenocaulon from Mexico," by J. M. GREENMAN, 3 new species of the former genus and 2 of the latter being described. II. "New or otherwise noteworthy spermatophytes, chiefly from Mexico," by B. L. ROBINSON, new species being described under Tigridia, Schoepfia, Mimosa, Pedilanthus, Bonplandia, Brittonastrum (3), Russelia, Stemodia, Piqueria, Stevia (2), Eupatorium (10), Brickellia, Guardiola, Zinnia, Perymenium, Coreopsis, Tridax, Pericome, Tagetes, Cacalia (3), Perezia (2); and two new genera of Compositae, *Cymophora* (Helianthieae) and *Loxothysanus* (Helenieae). III. "New plants from Guatemala and Mexico, collected chiefly by C. C. DEAM," by B. L. ROBINSON and H. H. BARTLETT, new species being described under Polypodium, Paspalum, Fuirena, Myriocarpa, Polygonum, Ruprechtia, Aeschynomene, Mimosa, Tetrapteris, Euphorbia, Acalypha, Clusia, Rinorea,

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[5] Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, N. S. 34. Proc. Amer. Acad. **43**:19–68. 1907.